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Tuesday, 14 Jun 2011

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Celebrations May 2011



We have received word that **Pastor Bennie Liggins**, pastor of Unity UCC in Montgomery and former associate conference minister for new church development of the Southeast Conference, was back in his pulpit on Sunday, May 15th. Several month ago Bennie Liggins entered the hospital for back surgery. Due to complications following surgery Bennie was in a coma for a period of time, and when he came out of it, he had lost mobility, dexterity and speech. Following the hospital stay he entered a rehabilitation facility, and was released several weeks ago, to return to the pulpit in May. He is on his way to a full recovery, and is easing back into pastoral duties. Unity UCC has described the experience as a refiners fire, which strengthen and built them in spirit. We are grateful to God, to the gifted leadership of Unity, and to all who held Bennie and the church in their prayers.



David Sigmund, who recently graduated from Candler School of Theology, was ordained in a service at Kirkwood UCC in the Atlanta area at 5:00 pm on Sunday May 15th. David has been called to serve the North Long Beach Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Long Beach, CA. He is also working as a consultant with the Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC in the area of church renewal. This service was marked by

celebration of this first ordination at Kirkwood, a new church start led by Susannah Davis. Preaching for the occasion was John Blevins, a professor at Emory University, and representing in the Service of Ordination the Conference and the Association respectively were Conference Minister, Tim Downs, and Chrisanne Mayer. David's family was present including his partner, Jay.



Marlene Underwood, member in discernment and member of Rush Memorial Congregational UCC in Atlanta shares the news that she is the very grateful recipient of the Fund for Theological Education (FTE) North American Doctoral Fellowship and the Shelby Rooks Fellowship.



On May 22nd, during the



UCC News

UCC Newsroom

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

A 'Just Peace' future: Part 2

Following the recently concluded World Council of Churches' International Ecumenical Peace Convocation held in Kingston, Jamaica, United Church News asked Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite to reflect on the history, progress and potential future of the Just Peace movement.





morning service, **Michael Piazza** was installed by Conference Minister, Tim Downs as Senior Pastor of Virginia Highland Church (A Baptist and UCC Congregation), Atlanta. Also participating in the service was a representation of the Alliance of Baptists which is in ecumenical relationship with the UCC. Michael, who is serving as the co-director of the Center for Progressive Renewal, was until recently on the staff of the Cathedral of Hope, UCC, Dallas, Texas, the third largest church in the United Church of Christ. He accepted the call to Virginia Highland with the understanding that the church was committing itself to a strategy of renewal. Over the course of several months of ministry, the church has seen worship double in size and it is feeling a renewed sense of vision and energy.

We are pleased to announce that **Paige Pearson**, former pastor of United Church of Cookeville, UCC has accepted a call to serve First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Rockwood, TN.



Barbara Everett, member of Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN and member-at-large on the conference Board of Directors was named Volunteer of the Year 2010. [Link here to read more about her honor.](#)

Associate Conference Minister, Kathy Clark, became a grandmother for the third time. David Clark Bowling, Kathy's first

grandson, was born on April 28, 2011, weighing in at 8 lbs. 3 oz. **Welcome, David!**

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

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